

Pesticide Incident Reporting and Tracking Review Panel

PIRT MEETING SUMMARY APRIL 20, 2006 PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY 1601 NE 150TH STREET, ROOM S4 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

PANEL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Maryanne Guichard, Chair	Department of Health	(360) 236-3391
Steven Gilbert	Practicing Toxicologist	(206) 527-0926
Matthew Keifer	University of Washington	(206) 616-1452
Alice Larson	General Public	(206) 463-9000
Maria Victoria Peeler	Department of Ecology	(360) 407-6704
Karen Ripley	Department of Natural Resources	(360) 902-1691
William Robertson	Washington Poison Center	(206) 517-2356
Dorothy Tibbetts	Department of Health	(360) 236-3361
Gabrielle Toutonghi	Department of Labor and Industries	(360) 902-5478
Ann Wick	Department of Agriculture	(360) 902-2051

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Allan Felsot	Washington State University	(509) 372-7365
Lucy Harter, Coordinator	Department of Health	(360) 236-3356
Vacant	Department of Fish & Wildlife	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Pat Boss	Washington State Horticulture Assn	(509) 771-1844
Joe Cropley	Washington Poison Center	(206) 517-2356
Cheryl Hanks	Department of Health	(360) 236-3365
Barbara Morrissey	Department of Health	(360) 236-3368

PIRT Review Panel Activities

Maryanne Guichard called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The April meeting agenda was revised and approved. The February 16, 2006 PIRT meeting summary was approved as revised. The March 16, 2006 meeting summary was approved.

2006 Action Recommendations

Leads reported the status on the 2006 Action Recommendations. Detailed updates for some recommendations will be presented at the May PIRT meeting. Leads will also identify if their action item contains a deadline or is an ongoing item. Target dates will be assigned where appropriate. Action Recommendation 4, PIRT recommendations to EPA on the Worker Protection Standard, is under revision.

Risks vs. Benefits of PBDE Flame Retardant

Bill Robertson responded to an editorial in the April 6, 2006 Seattle P.I. newspaper that suggested banning the flame retardant PBDE after it was identified in human breast milk. He noted that the risks of the amount of PBDE found in breast milk should be weighed with the benefits of PBDE as a flame retardant.

Orchard Day Report

Steve Gilbert briefed the panel on the Orchard Day in Cashmere. The orchard belonging to Randy Smith is representative of the types of difficulties growers face in applying pesticides including tree structure, a mid-orchard golf course and nearby worker residences. Other panel members who attended the demonstration gave their observations. Ann asked what additional information the panel would like to see presented in the fall drift conference.

Agenda Topics for June PIRT Panel Meeting in Yakima

The panel approved three topics for the June 15, 2006 PIRT agenda: 1) a panel discussion of the ChE Monitoring Rule led by Dave Kalman from the ChE Scientific Advisory Committee, 2) clarification of WSDA and L&I roles in the administration of the Worker Protection Standard, and 3) DOH year one progress on a study on preventable causes of farmworker illnesses. DOH recommended that the following people be asked to discuss their experience with the Monitoring Rule: 1) a clinician, 2) employer/grower and 3) worker. DOH will put out a press release about the meeting.

Bark Beetle Activity and the Potential for Pesticide Incidents

Karen Ripley described the current epidemic-level infestations of bark beetles in the Northwest. The beetles are attacking pine and fir trees made vulnerable by past droughts. Control includes monitoring for infestation, thinning stands of trees, removal of damaged trees, and supplemental watering. Pesticides and pheromones can be used for prevention but are not effective as a control measure because, by the time a tree shows damage, it is too late to treat. Preventative sprays and pheromones can be used to protect specific trees in parks and campgrounds.

Science Corner

The Panel discussed the paper, *Altered Breast Development in Young Girls from an Agricultural Environment*. The paper explored the possible impact of pesticides on breast development in girls from a valley using modern agricultural practices with those from the foothills where traditional ranching is practiced. The valley children experienced slower maturation. The confounders in the study make it difficult to draw conclusions on cause.

Panel Decision-Making Process

PIRT members discussed three models for decision making: 1. consensus, 2. majority vote, and 3. attempting consensus and voting when consensus can't be reached. The discussion on consensus included the following issues: provisions for input from all members, absent members, the amount of time available, and how to reach a decision if consensus is not reached at end of meeting (postponing discussion, continued discussion by email, or email vote.) The panel considered the 'Consensus minus one' model where the group agrees that one dissenter does not stop action on a decision. Model #3 will be further defined and all models will be discussed at the May 18, 2006 PIRT meeting.

PIRT Policies and Procedures

Dorothy Tibbetts presented a draft protocol for making decisions by consensus or voting and for making recommendations. Recommendations could include proposing or supporting a rule change, recommending action to a member agency, supporting an application for funding for a pesticide project and recommending an appointment to an open PIRT membership position. Discussion will continue at the May 18, 2006 meeting.

Discussion of PIRT RCW

The panel discussed whether DOH should submit a proposal to the 2007 Legislature updating PIRT RCW 70.104. Consensus had not been reached on the changes suggested by panel members by the end of the time allotted. Discussion will continue at the May 18, 2006 meeting. DOH must be advised by May 19, 2006 whether or not the panel wishes it to go forward with a legislative proposal.

Draft Letter to L&I concerning Cholinesterase Monitoring

Barb Morrissey wrote (with input from Ann Wick and Matt Keifer) and presented a second draft of the PIRT letter to L&I expressing the panel's concern about the continued collection of ChE depression data when the three year evaluation period for the Cholinesterase (ChE) Monitoring Rule and the L&I Focus Study ends in September 2006. Barb will draft a third letter after review of L&I's response to the Stakeholder Advisory Committee's recommendations. L&I's response addresses many of the concerns identified in the PIRT letter.

Matt Keifer demonstrated a computerized questionnaire developed to collect information about risk factors from pesticide handlers enrolled in the ChE monitoring program. The interview is conducted at the health clinic before the patient obtains the results on his/her ChE levels. The worker uses a computer tablet and a headset. The questions are available in Spanish and the answers are icon-based. Individual responses to the questionnaires will be not disclosed but aggregate results will be compiled.

Agency Updates

Agency reports were postponed to the May PIRT meeting.

Announcement

Maryanne Guichard reported that the Department of Health is looking at realignment of programs and staff within the Division of Environmental Health. With the proposal, the Pesticide Program would be transferred to the Office of Environmental Health Assessments under Rob Duff. Dorothy Tibbetts would move to the Zoonotics Program.

Future Meetings

The next PIRT meeting will be on May 18, 2006 at the Department of Health in Tumwater. Meetings are from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It is important for everyone who plans to attend PIRT meetings at the Department of Health in Tumwater to notify Lucy Harter in advance as the Town Center East building requires an escort into secured areas.

Location of Future Meetings

PIRT meets on the third Thursday of each month. All Seattle meetings will be held at the State Public Health Lab, 1601 NE 150th Street, Room S4. Olympia area meetings will be at the Department of Health, 101 Israel Road SE, Town Center East, Building 1, Room 232, Tumwater.

May 18, 2006 – Department of Health

June 15, 2006 – Yakima at WSDA

July 20, 2006 – Public Health Lab

August – No meeting

September 21, 2006 – Department of Health

October 19, 2006 – Public Health Lab

November 16, 2006 – Department of Health

December – No meeting

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.